

(c) Out of 61 ICBRs with BRO, 19 roads of length 625 Km. has already been completed. The connectivity (formation work completed) has been achieved on 24 roads and the work is under progress on 16 roads, while works on 2 roads is yet to commence. Out of the remaining 42 ICBRs, the target set for completion for 40 ICBRs is 2018 and for 2 roads the completion is expected to go beyond 2018.

Living conditions of martyred soldiers' families

1742. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether families of soldiers who were awarded gallantry awards posthumously are living in miserable conditions;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to ensure welfare of such families, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to take care of widows and dependent parents of those who laid down their lives for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) The families of soldiers awarded gallantry awards posthumously, have been adequately compensated and are taken care through various schemes of the Government. Timely payment of all dues / benefits to next of Kin of all martyrs as sanctioned by the Government is ensured through a well-established procedure / system. All assistance is provided to the widows as per Government orders / instructions.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Sainik Board Secretariat at the Central level, Rajya Sainik Boards at the State level and Zila Sainik Boards at the District level are entrusted with welfare of Ex-servicemen and their families including the families of defence personnel killed in military operations.

Regiments and local formations / establishments / units have systems in place to periodically interact formally / informally with the families of defence personnel killed during operations.

Administrative control of BRO

1743. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has transferred administrative control of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to the Ministry of Defence;

- (b) if so, the total effective sanctioned strength of personnel of BRO as on date and number of personnel actually working presently;
- (c) the reasons for shortage of personnel in BRO and steps taken by Government to fill this gap expeditiously;
- (d) whether there are high number of casualties in BRO;
- (e) if so, the details of BRO personnel killed due to various reasons during last three years and current year, year-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to make BRO an effective force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : (a) The BRO has been functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence (MoD). However, the budget for the BRO was being reflected in the Demands for Grants under from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) until year 2014-15.

Vide Gazette Notification dated 9th January, 2015, all matters relating to Border Roads Development Board and Border Roads Organisation have been placed under Ministry of Defence in Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. Accordingly, from the financial year 2015-16, the budget of BRO has also been shifted from MoRTH to MoD.

(b) The total authorised strength of BRO personnel is 42598. The number of personnel working presently is 34853.

(c) The effective recruitment in BRO is less due to difficult working conditions and extensive deployment in Border areas. However, continuous efforts are being made for recruitment through Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) Centre. It has also been decided to outsource services of Junior Engineers (Civil) as an interim measure.

(d) and (e) The number of BRO personnel died in harness during last three years and current year, are given below:

Year	Number of BRO personnel died in harness
2012	159
2013	158
2014	129
2015 (upto 30.4.2015)	46

(f) In the recent past the Government has approved several proposals to improve the efficiency of BRO. These include shifting of budget of BRO from MoRTH to MoD, enhanced delegation of financial powers at various executive levels in BRO, and specialist training courses for BRO officers. In addition, certain welfare related proposals have also been sanctioned in the recent past to improve the service conditions in BRO.

Self dependency in Arms production

†1744. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to achieve self-dependence in the production of weapons and other equipments in defence sector;

(b) whether any measures have been taken to increase the contribution of weapon, manufacturing by the public and private sectors; and

(c) if so, the details of the contracts signed with the Indian companies by this Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has promulgated its Defence Production Policy in January 2011. The objectives of the policy are to achieve substantial self-reliance in the design, development and production of equipment, weapon systems, platforms required for defence in as early a time frame as possible; to create conditions conducive for the private industry to take an active role in this endeavour; to enhance potential of SMEs in indigenisation and to broaden the defence R&D base of the country.

2. In pursuance of the Defence Production Policy 2011, the Government has taken the following major steps to promote the participation of private and public sector in the indigenous production of defence equipment:

- (i) Technology Perspective and Capability Road map (TPCR), which gives out the details of the equipment and technologies required by our Armed Forces, has been put in public domain to provide the industry an overview of the direction in which the Armed Forces intend to head in terms of capability in future.
- (ii) Preference to 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)' and 'Make' categories of acquisition over 'Buy and Make (Global)' and 'Buy (Global)' categories thereby giving preference to Indian Industry in procurement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.